United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/INF/20

Meeting of States Parties

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Issues related to the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf — tentative dates of submissions

Note by the Secretariat

1. The seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, in its decision on issues related to the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf,[1] acknowledged the anticipated workload of the Commission owing to an increasing number of submissions, placing additional demands on its members and on the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, and requested coastal States Parties to submit to the Secretariat, for work planning purposes, by the end of November 2007, information on whether they intend to make a submission to the Commission and by which date, and requested the Secretariat to circulate a reminder to States Parties to that effect and subsequently report the information thus collected to States Parties.[2]

2. By note DOALOS/07-01406 dated 14 August 2007, the Secretariat circulated a reminder, in which it requested the Permanent Missions of coastal States Parties concerned to inform the Secretariat, as soon as possible, but not later than 30 November 2007, as to whether their Governments intended to make submissions to the Commission and by which date.[3] The Secretariat also requested the Permanent Missions to inform the Secretariat, if applicable, whether the Governments concerned intended to make a submission individually or jointly with other neighbouring States.

3. Twenty-seven States responded to the above-mentioned communication from the Secretariat: Angola, Argentina, Barbados, Canada, Cape Verde, Denmark,

[1] See SPLOS/144.

[2] See SPLOS/162, para. 4.

[3] Similar requests were addressed to certain coastal States by notes verbales from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, dated 16 January 2004 and 9 July 2004. In response to these notes verbales, a number of replies were received concerning the status of preparation of submissions and anticipated dates of completion. See CLCS/39, para. 27, and CLCS/42, para. 46.

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Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Myanmar, Palau, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

4. One State indicated in its response to the communication from the Secretariat that it experiences difficulties in the preparation of the submission and may not be in a position to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a).

5. It is also noted that some coastal States made reference to their expected dates of submissions in their statements to the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or the General Assembly.

6. To date, the following States have made submissions, full or partial, to the Commission through the Secretary-General of the United Nations: Russian Federation (2001), Brazil (2004), Australia (2004), Ireland (2005), New Zealand (2006), France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (jointly, 2006), Norway (2006), France (2007) and Mexico (2007).

7. The annex to the present note contains a composite table indicating the tentative dates of submissions together with other relevant information.

Annex

Table
Tentative dates of submissions to the Commission

	State	*Tentative dates of submissions*
1.	Angola	By 13 May 2009
2.	Argentina	By 13 May 2009
3.	Australia	Submission received[a]
4.	Barbados	13 May 2009
5.	Brazil	Submission received[b]
6.	Canada	By December 2013
7.	Cape Verde	By April 2008
8.	Cuba	By 13 May 2009[c]
9.	Denmark	Partial submission by 2009 and another by 2014[d]
10.	France	Submissions received[e,f]
11.	Ghana	May 2010[g]
12.	Guyana	Before 13 May 2009
13.	India	By 13 May 2009[h]
14.	Indonesia	Before 13 May 2009
15.	Ireland	Submissions received[e,i]
16.	Japan	January 2009
17.	Kenya	Before May 2009
18.	Madagascar	Before July 2011
19.	Malaysia	13 May 2009
20.	Maldives	Before 13 May 2009
21.	Marshall Islands	Not considering a submission
22.	Mauritius	No date indicated[j]
23.	Mexico	Submission received[k]
24.	Myanmar	December 2008
25.	Namibia	December 2007
26.	New Zealand	Submission received[l]

	State	*Tentative dates of submissions*
27.	Nigeria	By May 2009[m]
28.	Norway	Submission received[n]
29.	Oman	No dates specified[o]
30.	Pakistan	In 2008
31.	Palau	May 2009
32.	Papua New Guinea	By May 2009[p]
33.	Philippines	May 2009
34.	Portugal	April 2009
35.	Republic of Korea	12 May 2009
36.	Russian Federation	Submission received[q]
37.	Seychelles	13 May 2009
38.	Sierra Leone	Before May 2009[r]
39.	South Africa	Partial submission in 2008 and additional submission in 2009
40.	Spain	Submission received[e]
41.	Sri Lanka	Before May 2009
42.	Suriname	13 May 2009
43.	Tonga	Intends to make a submission[s]
44.	Trinidad and Tobago	By May 2009[t]
45.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A submission received,[e] other(s) before May 2009[u]
46.	United Republic of Tanzania	Before May 2009
47.	Uruguay	After 1 July 2008
48.	Viet Nam	Before 13 May 2009

[a] Submission received on 15 November 2004.
[b] Submission received on 17 May 2004.
[c] See SPLOS/135, para. 76.
[d] No firm decisions yet taken regarding the timing of submissions.
[e] Joint submission made by France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland received on 19 May 2006.
[f] A partial submission received on 22 May 2007.
[g] Ghana indicated difficulties in the preparation of the submission and expressed its wish for the applicable time limit to be deferred from May 2009 to May 2010.
[h] See SPLOS/164, para. 77.
[i] A partial submission received on 25 May 2005.

[j] Government intends to make a submission.
[k] A partial submission received on 13 December 2007.
[l] A partial submission received on 19 April 2006.
[m] See SPLOS/164, para. 77.
[n] Submission received on 27 November 2006; further submission may be made in respect of other areas.
[o] Government has no intention of making a submission but reserves the right to do so if it is later decided.
[p] See SPLOS/164, para. 77.
[q] Submission received on 20 December 2001; the Government intends to submit additional information.
[r] See SPLOS/164, para. 77.
[s] In its response to the 2004 communication from DOALOS, Tonga indicated that it intends to make a submission.
[t] See SPLOS/164, para. 77.
[u] Government intends to make further submissions.